

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending October 7, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**First Frost of the Season Slowed Flower Sales
Pumpkin Patches Opened for Business Last Week**

FIELD CROPS

Winter wheat planting continued to progress behind schedule due to dry conditions. Moisture was needed in many areas for proper winter wheat development. Potato and onion harvest continued in full swing. The first frost of the season last week slowed flower sales. Christmas tree growers were preparing roads for tree harvest and spot spraying Canadian thistle and blackberry vines. Corn harvest for silage progressed, while corn harvest for grain began. Turfgrass growers kept busy mowing fields that were planted in August.

LIVESTOCK

Lack of precipitation continued to plague ranges and pastures. Cattle producers culled herds due to poor forage conditions. Producers continued to haul water to cattle. Some farmers were harvesting a fifth cutting of hay. Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 55% poor, 20% fair and 5% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Asian pear and apple harvests were in full swing with average yields reported. Red Delicious apple harvest hit its peak last week. Pumpkin patches opened to brisk business last week while corn mazes continued to operate for fall visitors. Carrot harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.9	6.0

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	25	50	25	-
Subsoil	25	55	20	-
Irrigation Water	5	10	85	-
Hay and Roughage	4	16	80	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	82	69	86	86
Winter Wheat Emerged	66	53	61	67
Potatoes Harvested	58	44	67	67
Dry Beans Harvested	72	53	76	74
Corn Harvested for Silage	67	57	73	77
Corn Harvested for Grain	6	4	10	6

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	5	95	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: Mid-week rain was very welcome, since conditions have been very dry. Cattle were being fed hay several weeks earlier than normal. Corn silage harvest should begin very soon.

Gray's Harbor: Heavy rain in the middle of the week was welcomed by most ag producers. Organic truck gardeners reported excellent sales of fall produce. Commercial artichoke growers were direct marketing artichokes at the farm for 3/\$1.00. Commercial dahlia growers were pleased that the growing season has gone this long without a killing frost. Christmas tree growers were preparing equipment for tree harvest. Livestock producers were seeding new pastures. Dairy producers were beginning to harvest corn for silage in fields, which were subject to muddy conditions if heavy rainfall occurs.

Grays Harbor/Lewis (2nd Report): A good series of rain showers would help rejuvenate pastures.

Pierce/South King: For the most part, conditions were good for crops in the Puget Sound area. There were no reports of any or crop damage.

Snohomish/ North King: The fall weather was normal, with a few daytime temperature above normal. Fall harvest of corn, pumpkins, and vegetables continued. Dairies got ready for corn silage harvest and continued nutrient management practices.

Thurston: A major rainstorm in the middle of the week was welcomed by most ag producers. Some areas of the county reported receiving nearly 3/4 of an inch of rain. This moisture helped to alleviate some of the drought stress that plants were exhibiting throughout the county. Blueberry harvest was complete. U-Pick pumpkin farms were gearing up to open next week. Christmas tree farmers were doing final grooming on trees in preparation for harvest. Dairy farmers were getting their equipment ready for silage corn harvest. Livestock producers were building temporary fences around hayfields for fall grazing. Commercial turfgrass growers were pleased with nearly ideal conditions for seed germination in newly planted fields.

CENTRAL

Franklin: Harvest continued for apples, asparagus, carrots, potatoes, and sweet corn. The weather was generally warm, although there was scattered rain during the week.

Grant: Fall field fumigation began. Field dessication continued, delayed by the grounding of aircraft. Buckwheat blooming neared completion. The fifth cutting of alfalfa hay was in progress and the fourth cutting was complete. The growers in the buy-out can begin irrigation on October 1, not to exceed 10 percent of seasonal usage. Granny Smith, Golden and Red Delicious apple harvests began.

Kittitas: The second cutting of timothy hay was wrapped up. Much needed rain was received.

Yakima: Harvest of Red Delicious apples continued. Cooler evenings, over the past week, enhanced the eating quality of all apples to be harvested. Up until now, weather conditions that promote fruit color have been less than optimal throughout the Yakima Valley.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures ranged from 7 degrees below normal, to 11 degrees above normal, with .12 inches of rain. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Winter wheat emerged and was looking fair to good. Precipitation is going to be needed this fall to insure adequate root development.

Asotin/Garfield: A couple of rain showers were a welcomed change from the hot, dry weather. However, it will take much more precipitation to relieve the current drought. Most farmers have decided to go ahead and seed winter wheat, most dusting. Range remained in poor condition with reports of ranchers selling cattle early or feeding hay.

Lincoln: Most winter wheat seeding was complete except for a few areas in the northern end of the county. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition, but precipitation this fall will be needed for adequate root development.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Most harvest operations were complete throughout the county. While fall seeding was nearing completion, the lack of moisture for planting was a great concern to area farmers. A small, but measurable amount of rain with high winds was received during the week. The pasture and hay situation was still very distressed.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A little moisture was received last week. The precipitation varied by location, but reports of .25 to .1 inches was common—which is not enough to do much good. Winter wheat seeding was still behind schedule. Producers are waiting for rainfall in order to seed. Range and pasture conditions were getting worse without the fall moisture. Many ranchers were selling livestock at the local auctions due the poor condition of many pastures and the cost of feed. The forecast does not call for any rain.

Stevens: The county received a half inch of rain during the middle of the week. Cattle were being pulled from ranges, and calves were taken to market.

Whitman: Light showers and cooler temperatures arrived late in the week. Accumulated amounts were only .25 inches. Winter wheat planting gained momentum. Some deep seeded wheat following summer fallow emerged. Topsoil conditions remained dry, and grazing conditions were poor.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

October 9, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	35	70	52	-2	13	-11	0	0	0.00	-0.61	0	1.47	-1.08	58	7
Everett	45	70	56	3	45	17	0	0	0.01	-0.55	1	1.16	-1.55	43	7
Hoquiam	42	77	55	-3	38	-8	2	-5	0.03	-1.03	1	0.87	-3.44	20	6
Kelso	39	81	57	2	51	11	3	-2	0.14	-0.52	1	1.03	-2.00	34	5
Olympia	31	74	52	-2	20	-4	0	0	0.04	-0.65	2	0.61	-2.34	21	6
Seattle-Tacoma	47	71	58	2	55	15	3	0	0.02	-0.53	1	0.74	-1.69	30	8
Shelton	35	77	54	-2	29	-7	0	-4	0.02	-0.85	1	0.74	-2.81	21	5
Tacoma	36	77	54	-2	29	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.55	0	0.10	-2.38	4	2
Vancouver	43	79	60	5	70	32	10	6	0.09	-0.47	1	0.77	-1.80	30	4
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	28	84	52	0	24	2	0	-3	0.00	-0.08	0	0.09	-0.48	16	1
Omak	28	73	54	3	37	17	0	-3	0.00	-0.14	0	0.37	-0.56	40	2
Stampede Pass	37	67	49	6	19	12	0	0	0.03	-1.02	1	1.12	-3.36	25	8
Wenatchee	37	78	56	1	47	6	5	-4	0.00	-0.07	0	0.08	-0.39	17	1
Yakima AP	31	81	54	1	36	3	2	-4	0.00	-0.07	0	0.14	-0.33	30	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	27	81	53	4	29	12	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.30	-1.04	22	1
Deer Park	23	77	49	-4	12	-11	0	-4	0.00	-0.17	0	0.44	-0.60	42	2
Spokane AP	32	78	52	0	24	0	3	-1	0.00	-0.14	0	0.17	-0.70	20	2
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	35	79	58	2	65	20	18	7	0.00	-0.07	0	0.13	-0.30	30	1
Moses Lake	32	78	54	-3	36	-9	2	-9	0.00	-0.07	0	0.02	-0.41	5	1
Quincy	35	78	58	4	58	23	10	3	0.00	-0.07	0	0.06	-0.44	12	1
Ritzville	33	82	56	4	46	18	6	1	0.00	-0.14	0	0.11	-0.59	16	1
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	35	83	59	-1	68	1	21	2	0.00	-0.07	0	0.13	-0.29	31	1
Pasco	33	83	55	-4	38	-11	1	-9	0.00	-0.07	0	0.03	-0.40	7	1
Pullman	29	76	51	-3	17	-8	0	-3	0.00	-0.23	0	0.36	-0.87	29	3
Walla Walla AP	41	83	58	-1	58	2	13	2	0.01	-0.27	1	0.49	-0.74	40	4
Whitman Mission	27	84	53	-3	28	-7	1	-5	0.00	-0.18	0	0.28	-0.58	33	3
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	32	79	54	-1	27	-4	1	-4	0.00	-0.28	0	0.25	-1.22	17	4
Lewiston ID	40	83	60	4	75	26	17	6	0.00	-0.18	0	0.19	-0.77	20	2

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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